

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00746 192246Z

61

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION - EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT

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1. JAN 19 BEIRUT PRESS PRESENTS WIDE RANGE OF EDITORIAL COMMENT ON EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT, WITH ONLY MOSCOW-ORIENTED PAPERS CONTINUING THEIR SILENCE. LEFTIST DFO-COMMANB -)-MUHARRIR COMES OUT IN OPEN OPPOSITION TO AGREEMENT, WHICH IT DESCRIBES AS ACCORD ON "JCSOLUTION OF ARAB SOLIDARITY." INDEPENDENT PAPERS CONTINUE TO DESCRIBE AGREEMENT AS FIRST STEP TOWARDS COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT, WHILE PRO-CAIRO PAPERS COMBINE THIS WITH APPEALS FOR LESS IMMODERATE CRITICISM OF ACCORD.

2. AL-MUHARRIR WRITES: "DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT ... RAISES MANY QUESTIONS... THIS IS BECAUSE THIS STEP... WILL NEITHER END CRISIS NOR ACHIEVE JUST PEACE THAT ARABS DESIRE OR STATUS QUO PEACE THAT ISRAEL DESIRES... AGREEMENT CMNTAINS GREAT DANGERS... IT DESTROYS ALL TPEIYLOGANS UNDER WHICH ARAB NATION ENTERED OCT WAR,

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 00746 192246Z

WITH 'COMPLETE LIBERATION OF THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES

AND RESTORATION OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S RIGHTS' AT THE FORE... IT MAKES OCT WAR APPEAR AS IF IT ENDED IN DEFEAT INSTEAD OF VICTORY OR SEMI-VICTORY, BECAUSE ISRAEL PUT FORTH SIMILAR PARTIAL SOLUTION TO EGYPT AFTER 1917 DEFEAT... IT WEAKENS ARAB SOLIDARITY... BECAUSE MOST OF THE ARAB STATES REFUSE TO ACCEPT A PARTIAL SOLUTION... IT PUTS PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION INTO VERY CRITICAL SITUATION, EXPOSES IT TO FURTHER LIQUIDATION AT ARAB HANDS, AND PUTS INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLES IN WAY OF ITS ARMED STRUGGLE... IT GIVES ISRAEL BACK THE INITIATIVE, BECAUSE IT WILL PERMIT IT TO PROCRASTINATE... IT WILL WEAKEN INTENSITY OF ARAB STRUGGLE... BY CREATING NEW CONVICTION THAT STRUGGLE WITH ISRAEL HAS ENDED.... IT WILL RETURN REGION TO NEW PHASE OF 'NO WAR-NO PEACE'.... IT WILL CONSECRATE AMERICAN WEIGHT IN REGION, BECAUSE AGREEMENT WAS CONCLUDED ONLY THROUGH ITS EFFORTS... IN SHORT, AGREEMENT THRUSTS ARAB CAUSE INTO THE UNKNOWN AND PLACES NEW RESPONSIBILITIES IN ARAB STRUGGLE."

3. PRO-SOVIET ASH-SHAAB TYPIFIES WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE OF MOSCOW-ORIENTED PRESS: "WE BELIEVE THIS VERY CRITICAL PHASE REQUIRES LEADERSHIP TO ADOPT SECRECY IN AFFAIRS IN WHICH ONLY IT IS COMPETENT AND IMPOSES PATIENCE AND WAITING ON MASSES UNTIL SUCH TIME AS CLOUDS DISPERSE AND FMG LIFTS."

4. PRO-CAIRO AL-ANWAR COLUMNIST BASIM AL-JISR WRITES: "IT IS TRUE THAT KISSINGER IS BIG WINNER IN SEPARATION OF FORCES AGREEMENT, BUT EGYPT AND ARABS ARE NOT NECESSARILY LOSERS.... EGYPT DID NOT ABANDON ANY ARAB RIGHT... WHILE IT RESTORED ITS CONTROL OVER BOTH BANKS OF CANAL. BEGIN'S AND SHARON'S OPPOSITION AND DAVAR'S OBJECTIONS TO THIS AGREEMENT SUFFICE TO CONFIRM THAT IT IS NOT IN ISRAEL'S INTEREST... NO ONE CAN IN TRUTH DENY THAT THIS AGREEMENT CONSTITUTES POSITIVE STEP TOWARDS RESUMPTION OF TALKS ON CARRYING OUT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION;"

5. LEADING INDEPENDENT ARABIC AN-NAHAR COLUMNIST MICHEL ABU JAWDEH LOOKS BEYOND AGREEMENT: "ISSUE WAS AND REMAINS BASICALLY NOT SO MUCH ONE OF WITHDRAWAL FROM SOME ARAB TERRITORIES AS ONE OF PALESTINIAN ENTITY... MIDEAST CRISIS HAS THROUGH

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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 00746 192246Z

DR KISSINGER PROVEN THAT IT IS OPEN TO SOLUTION OR TO BEGINNING OF ONE. WHAT MANY IMAGINE TO BE DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE WITH REGARD TO DEMANDS OR RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS WILL IN ITS TURN PROVE IT IS REASONABLE ONCE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE AND OTHERS DEAL WITH IT, GIVEN THAT IGNORING PALESTINIANS IN PAST WAS NOT BENEFICIAL, INDEED, IT MADE DILEMMA MORE COMPLICATED... TO FLEE FROM THIS QUESTION WOULD, SIMPLY PUT, BE BEGINNING OF ANOTHER QUARTER

CENTRY OF INSTABILITY IN MIDEAST AND WORLD."
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